

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 7, 17, 27, 37, 47 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The Applicant has amended these claims to delete the recitation of "or another mobile robot". The Applicant submits that the claims now comply with the first paragraph of §112.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8, 10-16, 18, 20-26, 28, 30-36, 38, 40-56, 48, 50-56, 58 and 60 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Jouppi. To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the combination of references must disclose every limitation of the claims. The claims recites a second remote station with an arbitrator that can control access to a mobile robot by a first remote station. Neither Takahashi or Jouppi disclose this limitation.

Takahashi discloses a system with a plurality of robots, each controlled by a controller. One of the robot controllers is a master which controls the other "slave" robot controllers. The master controller is not an arbitrator which control access to its robot by another remote station. Takahashi does not disclose an arbitrator. Likewise, Jouppi does not disclose an arbitrator. Thus, collectively Takahashi and Jouppi do not disclose all of the limitations of the claims and therefore do not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Additionally, the Examiner has not provided a sufficient or apparent reason why one would modify Takahashi to include a camera and a monitor. The Examiner states that one skilled in the art would modify Takahashi to include a camera and monitor to improve eye contact between a remote user and others interacting with the robotic device. There is nothing in Takahashi that would indicate that the robots are interacting with a user at the robot location.

There is no apparent reason why one would modify Takahashi to have a camera and a monitor if there are no people at the robot location.

The Examiner rejected claims 9, 19, 29, 39, 49 and 59 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Jouppi and Zenke. The Examiner rejected claims 7, 17, 27, 37, 47 and 57 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Jouppi, Zenke and Roy. The Applicant submits that these claims are allowable for being dependent upon allowable independent claims.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of rejections is requested. Allowance of claims 1-66 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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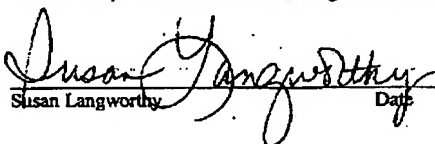
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Susan Langworthy Date Aug. 2, 2007